THE CURSE OF THE CONTINENTAL CODE. The Congress of the German Nobles, at the annual meeting just a week ago, enacted that it should no longer be regarded as a brand of dishonor for a nobleman to decline a duel, if the grounds of his refusal were honorable. This may be considered as a step in the right direction, yet it is doubtful whether it will contribute in any way to check or arrest the mania for duelling which is raging at the present moment throughout the length and breadth of Europe. The means decided upon by the convention as a remedy, namely, the organization of courts of honor for the regulation of differences hitherto settled by eingle combat, already exists in the case of the army, and, far from diminishing the number of duels among military men, has, on the contrary, had the effect of increasing their

These military courts of honor, composed of officers belonging as far as possible to the regiments to which the disputants belong, were first established by old Emperor William, who, unlike his grandson, was sincerely honest in his endeavors to diminish duelling, and he decreed that no fight should be permitted to take place until the point at issue had been submitted to the court, and the latter, after due deliberation. had decided whether the matter was one of sufscient importance to warrant a meeting on the field of honor.

One of the first things which, however, the present Emperor did after ascending the throne was to deliver a speech at one of the universithe lauding the system of the duello, and pronouncing it one of the most charished institutions of the educational, and incidentally of the social system of Germany. This speech gave a tremendous fillip to duelling, and served to undo all the good that had been effected in the direction of its abolition by the old Emperor's pronounced aversion to the custom. A few months later the Minister of War of Bavaria, General yon Asch, was encouraged by these Imperial utterances to declare in the National Legislature Munich that under no circumstances could duelling be done away with in the army, or the -called code of honor modified; this, too, in plie of the fact that duelling is strictly forbidden by the criminal code in Bavaria, as well as in any other country of Europe. About the same time the Austrian Minister of War, the late Baron von Bauer, declared in the Reichsrath at Vienna that the condition of society did not permit of the abolition of encounters of this the army, while his colleague, Baron Feverjary, Minister of War for Hungary, posably with a view of demonstrating how cordially he approved General von Bauer's remark, challarged a Deputy who had denounced in the Diet the frequency of duelling in the army, and fought him with sabres in the garrison church at Pesth on a Sunday, an hour after the close of divine service, the marble floor of the sacred edifice being spattered with the blood of the unfortunate legislator, who was badly wounded. It may be added, by-the-way, that Baron Feverjary is still in office.

A PERVERTED INSTITUTION.

These courts of honor, which have been adopted in the armies of every Continental country in Europe, have entirely lost sight of the object for which they were originally created, and have in recent years developed into a means of promoting the frequency of the duello instead of diminishing it. That is to eay, they constantly order duels to be fought in cases where, if the matter had been left to the care of conscientious and trustworthy seconds, the point at issue could have been easily settled without any combat taking place. Indeed, these courts appear to have usurped inquisitorial prerogatives of an almost incredible character, and actually go out of their way to seek in the private lives ers in active service, and even on the retired list, for points which could be construed as affecting their honor. Inasmuch as almost every well-to-do German of any education or position completes his obligatory service in the with the rank of officer of the reserve forces, it will readily be seen how wide-reaching are the operations of these military courts of honor, which, constituting an imperium in imperlo, decree and enforce laws of their own making, which are diametrically opposed to those of

the land. von Kotze, the principal figure in the anonymous letter scandal at Berlin, after having fought two duels in vindication of his honor, receiving in one of the encounters a wound that will cause him to limp for the remainder of his life, decided to resort to the courts of law for the purpose of clearing in the eyes of the general public his character of the aspersions that had been cast upon it with a liberal and cruel hand. So he instituted suits for criminal and civil libel against those who had been most outspoken in their accusations, his fellow-master of the ceremonies being the first to be served with a writ. When this became known in military circles, it was declared that Von Kotze had resorted to dishonorable means to vindicate himself, and on the matter being brought before a military court of honor, the latter decided that Von Kotze, having preferred the law courts to a single encounter, was no longer fit for the society of gentlemen and officers. The Emperor declined to ratify this finding, in so ar as it decreed that the baron was unfit for the edety of noblemen and gentlemen, and this leaving him free to fight, he was practically goaded by the courts of honor, as well as by threats of social ostracism, into the duel which resulted in the death of Baron von Schraeder.

Another instance in point is the case of Dr. Zenker, who two or three weeks ago received a bullet through the heart from the pistol of his intimate friend, Baron von Kettleholt. Dr. Zenker was one of the most prominent lawyers in Berlin, and in the enjoyment of a large practice. His family consisted of three children and a wife, the latter an extremely pretty woman, disposed to coquetry and firtation, which, however, were a source of more amusement to her husband than of annoyance or of anger. Potsdam, which they made their home, is a hotbed of gossip and of scandel, and it was not long before the name of lovely Frau Zenker was connected by slanderous quidnunes with those of certain of her husband's friends, prominent among whom was Baron von Kettleholt, a lieutenant of the Imperial Navy and an officer on board of the Em-

peror's yacht Hohenzollern. Some officious person seems to have brought the gossip current about Frau Zenker to the nolice of the court of honor of the Potsdam garrikn, and after a searching investigation the court decided that Dr. Zenker's honor was at stake, and called upon him to vindicate it by challeng-ing Lieutenant von Kettleholt to a duel, under of forfeiting his commission as an officer of the Reserve, which, of course, would have entalled social ostracism of such a character as to tender it impossible for him to remain in Ger-nany. Dr. Zenker at first held back, thinking that to challenge his friend would cast a relection upon the reputation of his wife, but inally yielded to overwhelming pressure, and bught the duel which cost him his life.

Lieutenant von Kettleholt has not yet been frested, but has been ordered to hold himself at the disposal of the court-martial appointed to eal with his case. He will be sentenced, as invariably the case in instances of this kind, three months' detention within the precincts a fortress, and can count upon an imperial order being issued for his liberation before he has been there ten days, Emperor William adopting this means of effecting a compromise be-treen the demands of the laws of the land on the one hand and those of the army and of soci-

ty on the other. se centences of imprisonment in fortresse ling are held in so little account that von Kinderlen-Waechter, the intimate d of the Emporer and his Fidus Achates, led a newspaper editor at Berlin the enting on his ingratitude

sence from his post of German Minister Plenipotentiary at Copenhagen in order to undergo the term of imprisonment in the fortrees of Ehrenbreitstein to which he had been sentenced for fighting the duel. He was liberated by definement, during which time the German Government paid for the cost of his being represented at the Court of Copenhagen by a Charge d'Affaires, so that he cannot even be held to have suffered pecuniarily.

BOYS FORCED TO MURDER.

At Fünfkirchen, in Hungary, a few months ago two young sub-lieutenants of dragoons, who had just received their commissions, and who were nothing but boys, were skylarking together in the barrack yards. They pretended to be boxing, one touching the other on the cheek, the other tapping his friend on the shoulder. Unfortunately two senior officers happened to be watching the innocent amusement from a window, and without delay brought to the notice of the colonel and to the court of honor of the regiment that the two young fellows had struck one another. It was in vain that the two lads declared that they had never dreamed of insulting or offending the susceptibilities of each other, that they were old and fast friends, and that they had merely been joking. The court of honor took a more tragical view of the blows which they had struck in mere fun, and under the penalty of forfeiting their commissions they were compelled to fight a duel with sabres in the barrack yard, the one receiving a serious cut on the neck, while the other had his lung pierced, succumbing to the wound a couple of days later.

One could cite dozens more of instances such as these which have occurred during the last few years in Austria, Germany, Russia and Italy. These two will possibly suffice to show that the so-called courts of honor proposed by the Congress of Nobles at Berlin are not only utterly useless as a preventive to duels, but are, on the contrary, calculated to increase their frequency, if that indeed is possible.

It is difficult to suggest any remedy for this evil which the laws of the land appear wholly unable to check or to arrest. There has been scarcely a single monerch or pontiff of former days who has not issued decrees prohibiting the duello, under the most severe penalties; but so strong has been the pressure of public opinion, so deep-rooted the custom, that all these laws and decrees have remained to every intent and purpose a dead letter. Even in England, where the duello is ridiculed by the press and condemned from platform and pulpit, and where the articles of war prescribe the penalty

where the articles of war prescribe the penalty of being cashiered for every officer involved in a duel, either as a principal or as a second, the man who declines a challenge and who attempts to shield himself behind the army regulations is compelled to leave the service.

A case in point is that of Colonel the Hon. Frederick Wellesley, brother of the late Earl of Cowley and uncle of the present peer of that title. Colonel Wellesley, while acting as Chargé d'Affaires of Great Britain at Vienna, because involved in a dispute there with an English brother officer of the Guards, Captain John Delacour, who resented to such an extent his behavior as well as his remarks that he struck him with his glove across the face and challenged him to fight.

lenged him to fight.

Wellesley, however, refused to accept the challenge, on the ground that by so doing he would render himself liable to dismissal from the service. On Delacour's return to London, whither he was followed by the colonel, recailed, at the suggestion of the Viennese Court, which did not relish the idea of being compelled to accord diplomatic honors to a man who had thus shown the white feather, the captain pasted up a big poster on the wails of the Guards' barracks in Hyde Park, stigmatizing Colonel Wellesley as a coward. The old Duke of Cambridge, then generalissimo of the British Army, riding by, saw it and asked what it meant. He then sent for Colonel Wellesley and asked him if it were true that he had taken shelter behind the army regulations in a quarrel about an actress. Wellesley, of course, was obliged to acknowledge that he had.

"Then," said the Duke, "you had better leave the army."

"Leave the army, sir?" exclaimed the colonel.

"Then," said the Duke, "you had better leave the army."

"Leave the army, sir?" exclaimed the colonel.

"But what am I to do if I do leave the army."

"Turn dancing-master and be damned to you!" replied the burly old commander-in-chief, swinging on his heel, and ordering his aide-de-camp in waiting to show the colonel the door.

A few days later it was announced that Colonel Wellesley had been "graciously permitted" to resign his commission in the army, and although he did not turn dancing-master, yet he may be said to have followed the Duke's recommendation after a fashion by marrying Kate Vaughan, of the Galety Theatre, in London, who is known to fame as the originator of the art of skirt-dancing. EX-ATTACHE.

COWPER'S SUMMER HOUSE.

THE LITTLE BUILDING IN WHICH "JOHN GILPIN" WAS WRITTEN.

From the Sketch.

During February. Cowper's summer house, Olney.

Buckinghamshire, was sold by anction. The extract
from the particulars of sale reads as follows:

"Lot 2.—All that far-famed garden and orchard
known as "Cowper's Garden" and the "Gu'nea
Orchard," the former containing the poet's celebrated summer house, in which many of his works
were written."

It is interesting to remember that this same garden
was formerly attached to Cowper's house, and prob-



ably the poet's famous hares—by name, Bess, Puss and Tiney—gambolied there as well as in the dwelling house. The summer house is a tiny building which Cowper sometimes described as "his boudoir," and it was here he wrote "John Gilpin" and most of "The Task"—according to Thomas Wright, in his book on "The Town of Cowper," who also states that in winter it was used as a greenhouse, but, on the return of warm weather, the walls were lined with mats, and the building again converted into a summer house. It need hardly be added that visitors have coverd the walls and celling with their countless names, although on the table lies a visitors' signature-book, in which many distinguished names may be found. The garden and summer house, with stable and cottage, all let at 16 per annum, realized 1480 at the sale, and have become the property of the present tenant. Prior to the Chicago exhibition, our American neighbors were very desirous to posses this relic, and, we believe, a fabulous sum was spoken of as having been offered, that it might be bodily removed to the exhibition. The tiles from the poet's dwelling house did actually go over the water to the exhibition.

JENNY LIND SANG FOR HIM.

From The Philadelphia Record.

Edward V. Eccles, the veteran musician, who died within the past week at his home on North Thirteenth-st., was fond of telling this anecdote of his youth: "It was about the beginning of the war," he invariably began. "I was then a clerk in a large music-publishing house on Chestnut-st. One day a well-dressed, quiet little woman entered the store and asked me to show her some music of a classical nature. We struck up quite a conversation, in the course of which I asked her if she had heard the great Jenny Lind, who was then the talk of the town. She laughed and said: 'Oh, yes, I have heard her. Have you?' I told her that I hadn't had that pleasure, and that I had very little prospect of hearing her, the price of admission was so high. She laughed again, and then she handed me a song she had picked out, and asked me to play the accompaniment for her while she tried it. She sang so beautifully that I played like one in a dream. When she had finished she thanked me, and, with a rare smile, she said: 'You cannot say now that you have never heard Jenny Lind'. She thanked me again, and left me dumfounded." From The Philadelphia Record.

ESTABLISHING HIS CHARACTER. From The Washington Times.

Judge—Do you know this man?
Witness—Ol do thot, yer 'anner.
Judge—Is he a man of good moral character?
Witness (bewildered)—An' sure, O'im not afther
understandin' yer 'anner.
Judge—Does he stand fair in the community?
Witness—By me sow!, Oi don't apprehend yer man-

Ing.
Judge (irritably)—I mean, sir, is hear good man?
Witness—Och, by the howly saints, an' that he is,
Didn't he lick the best mon in the prasink? And
am Ol not that spalpeen meself?

A WAY TO GET RICH.

From The Atchison Globe.

If we could think of a lot of words that would rhyme with McKinley in a campaign song, we would quit working for a living.

toward Prince Bismarck, received leave of ab- MAN-O'-WAR'S MEN AT HOME

LIFE AMONG THE SAILORS ON A MODERN BATTLE-SHIP.

cree of the Emperor after only five days of con- THE VARIED DUTIES REQUIRED OF THEM-A HEALTHY AND AGREEABLE EXISTENCE-PETTY OFFICERS AND THEIR PRIDE

Those people who have a constitutional dislike to men-of-war, even while admitting their necessity. one of them. It may also be a surprise to them to learn that even so aesthetic and unmilitary a person as Ruskin will back them up in making such a visit, for he has written with enthusiasm of the a man-of-war. Certainly there is nothing on shore that is quite like this special existence affoat. Even inland farmers, who have never seen the ocean, are beginning to suspect this and to get interested in that important part of their country which lives on the water.

It was time, for this people was becoming so unmaritime as to need reminding that three-fourths of the whole globe is water, and that the ships which are travelling through it to-day are almost six times larger in aggregate tonnage than they were at the beginning of the century. True, most of these ships carry another flag than the Stars and Stripes, but there is no reason to believe that



GUN DECK-SAHORS' QUARTERS.

this will be permanent. Was it more than a few more robust quality than prevails in drawing-rooms. In fact, their language often reminds one of the Elizabethan dramatists. eign element was noticeable in the nationality of the crews of our men-of-war? And yet this has disappeared, and to-day more than 70 per cent of them are American citizens, and most of the remainder are waiting to become so.

The trade of the man-of-war's man flet the landlubber pronounce it trippingly), is generally spoken of as if it did not include a variety of careers. People on shore fancy that all sailors are beings whose only duty is to haul on ropes and to climb ratiines What will they say when they step on board a war vessel and find that the crew contains men pursuing such callings as printer, plumber, apothecary, blacksmith, yeoman, schoolmaster, musician and other unscamanlike occupations? They may be surprised to learn that the typical old salt is disappearing before the mechanic, the electrician and others of the same kind, who could never have belonged to the age of sails and yards. But sails are gone, and the sailor to-day is more of a soldier. At first, after the change, it was found difficult



OFF DUTY.

to make enough work to keep a crew busy; but this was soon remedied by giving them many more drills than formerly. For instance, the old school of athletics that was supplied by the daily handling of the satis and by going aloft was replaced by what is known as the setting-up drill, an exercise in which the men stand up in line and go through gymnastic motions under the orders of an officer. As a result the man-of-war's man does not slouch

in his walk as he used to. A FINE-LOOKING LOT OF MEN.

A stranger who strays into the forecastle finds himself in the midst of men who are erect and strapping, whose faces, moreover, are not only full of health, but of intelligence. Free and easy in their movements, it is a pleasure to watch them in their picturesque blue shirts, which are worn loose so as to give full play to their shoulders. Their trousers are fitted so closely to their shoulders. Their quire no suspenders, and the whole costume ap-pears extremely comfortable. A few of the men are observed to wear double-breasted coats and linen collars; these are the men of rank before the mast, and they are known as petty officers. The master-at-arms, the machinists, and the yeoman are among the chief of these, and their pay runs from \$60 to \$70 a month, besides a ration. They thus get as much compensation as many clerks on shore, and their life is a healthier one for an active man. and their life is a healthier one for an active man. Other petty officers, some of whom are boatswain's mates, gunner's mates, and carpenter's mates, get from \$30 to \$50 a month. Sailors of the seamen class get from \$16 to \$26 a month, and every man on a ship gets a ration, which is equivalent to 30 cents a day, in addition to his pay.

Besides their good compensation, all these men have the advantage of learning the virtue of obediance, of being compelled to keep themselves clean

ence, of being compelled to keep themselves clean and sober, of having to stand upright and keep their beels together. Certainly the life must have attractions, for experience has often proved that if once a man enters it he rarely returns to life on shore. A satior who has once been one of two or three hundred men or more—all living together in close proximity and in unending intimacy-cannot movement and noise and conversation about him make any other life full of loneliness. He never works or plays alone, but always with a hundred others. He never ceases to hear merrymaking find anything quite like it on shore. The perpetual works or plays alone, but always with a dundred others. He never ceases to hear merrymaking around him, whether he takes part in it or not. If he wishes to commune with himself, he has learned the art of being alone in a crowd; he takes his pipe the art of being alone in a crowd; he takes his pipe and sits behind a great gun, or he gazes seaward over the ship's side, or he carelessly strolls in the midst of the restless throng without even pretend-ing to see it. Probably his meditations would lose their continuity if they were without the under-current of noise around him.

their continuity if they were without the under-current of noise around him.

In a battle-ship there may be as many as
600 or 700 men, and at night every one of
these men goes to bed, not in a bed at all, but in a these men goes to bed, not in a bed at all, but in a canvas hammock. Strange as it may seem, this is the cleanest and least cumbersome way of disposing of a crew at night, and as for comfort, any one who has once siept in a hammock on board a ship will never want to sleep in anything else. In the morning every man is compelled to wash himself and to scrub either his clothes or hammock, or anything else that needs scrubbing. It is a disgrace to a sailor to be slovenly, and there is no keener punishment for him than to be sent to the master-at-arms and told to strip himself and wash from head to foot, while the master-at-arms stands by and sees that the bath is a thorough one.

THE MASTER-AT-ARMS.

The manner of the latter is often attended by curt language and a flaming eye. The master-at-arms is the greatest authority before the mast, and he has the honor of having a chapter devoted to him in the United States Naval Regulations. He is there told to keep a strict watch on the good behavior of the whole crew, a task that habituates him to the tone of command. He is the autocrat of the forecastle and berth-deck, and it is not surprising that he should be a man of great physical as well as moral force. He it is, and the boatswain's mates, who convey the orders of the offi-

ALL SORTS AND CONDITIONS OF MEN.

Many are the types of face and character that one sees before the mast on one of our great ships. And often there are figures in the crew which, as one may see at a glance, were intended by breed-

And often there are figures in the crew which, as one may see at a glance, were intended by breeding or education for a more considerable career. But perhaps some defect of character, or a lack of perseverance, may have landed them before the mast, where they flourish under an assumed name, and where their natures get what is most needed, the protection of discipline. Could the stories of these forecastle studies be written, they would make interesting reading. Their shipmates often whisper together of the unusual figures among them, and seem to feel a pride in them. The writer once knew of a petty officer who, it was rumored among his companions, was a correspondent of the Prestdent of the United States.

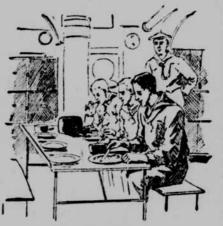
The chief petty officers of a man-of-war are, comparatively speaking, high in rank above the rest of the crew, and are treated accordingly by the latter. They have a mess table by themselves at mealtime, which is presided over by the master-at-arms, and which is adorned by glassware, crockery and napkins. All mess-tables on a ship are large enough for ten or lifteen sailors to sit at, and one of the company is selected by his mates to act as caterer. Meals are always rather well-behaved affairs, particularly at the tables of men who have a little rank. For it must be remembered that the sense of rank is almost as keen before the mast as it is about it among commissioned officers. This is difficult for a stranger to grasp, but every officer and man on a ship is a subordinate or a superior to somebody else, and he cannot forget that its official relations, even with his bosom companions, are among the laws of the land. Nor do the exigencies of confined space interfere with this sense of rank. A bluesacket may have to dedge around an Admiral end give orders under his nose, but there is still a thousand miles between them, not to be bridged by any man.

In every ship's company there are a few old-time salts whose elecves are covered with the red stripes which denote length of service, each stripe stand-

In every ship's company there are a few old-time saits whose sieeves are covered with the red stripes which denote lensth of service, each stripe standing for three years. These grizzled veterans have cheeks like wrinkled leather, and eyes that are always seeking the horizon. They have a contempt for modern methods and all young sailors, and sometimes they even go so far as to patronize young officers who are just from the Naval Academy. Like other old servants, they have an exagerated idea of their rights, and are rather glad to have somehody try to impose on them. They will not receive an overcoat from the paymaster unless it fits them like a dandy's, and they reject all his plugs of to-bacco unless of the proper size and ferocity. One of the secrets of their tyranny is the fact that they have that enviable possession, a war record, and have that enviable possession, a war record, and with this they can disarm dislike and can expect forgiveness for many eccentricities.

YOUNG MEN OF MUCH PROMISE.

In visiting the forecastle, among all the crowd there perhaps the youngest sailors and the apprentice boys are those that attract one the most. helr alert, intelligent faces give one a pleasant idea of the coming American man-of-war's man.



The old days when many of our bluelackets could neither read nor write are long gone, and with

The old days when many of our blue ackets could neither read nor write are long gone, and with them also the fancy that to be a good man-of-war's man one must be a desperado. Our sailors are well-behaved citizens, and these young ones in particular are noticeable for their respectability. They do not forget their homes, and they are frequently to be seen scated on the deck and using their knees as desks on which to write letters to their mothers and sisters. When they go ashore on liberty they do not waste their time in grog-shops. They are educated beyond the old supersitions of the sea, and they are not the sort of men to mind sailing from a port on Friday.

All men-of-war's men are compelled to be early risers, the usual time set for reveille being from 5 to 6 o'clock, and at night when the bugle sounds the tattoo at 9 o'clock, every one of them must be in his hammock. This is in port, but at sea the alternate watches come on duty every four hours, night and day.

Whenever the men go aft to the quarterdeck they must straighten up and all levity must be thrown aside, for they are not allowed to go there except on duty. But the moment they get forward of the mast (or, strictly speaking, of the gangway, for the latest ships have no masts), they may begin their "skylarking" (as it is technically termed), provided they do not become too uproarious over it. This they seldom do, for there exists between them and their officers that good understanding which belongs to discipline when tempered by commonsense. They know that they are subordinates, but at the same time they know that they are men. In fact, in taking a general survey of the American sailors, the writer nay say that he has seen many foreign crews, English, French and others, but in his opinion none of them were equal in general character and intelligence to those of the American ships of war at the present day.

A GREAT FRENCH LAWYER'S TRICK.

From Tit Bits.

From Tit Bits.

Mattre Lachand, the famous advocate, was perhaps the greatest master of comedy in France, and not a few eminent actors envied him his marvellous powers of mimicry.

He was once employed to defend a murderer against whom the facts were hopelessly clear. When his pathetic appeals and his tears—which were alled to touch his stolid audience, he resorted to the most impudent pieces of trickery.

Thrusting his moistened white handsrechief into his pocket, he demanded if the jurors were men, if they had human hearts, if they could bring themselves to condemn a fellow-man like the accused, whom he had credited with all sorts of chivalrous, if not saintly, merits. His eloquence was not merely fruitless, but the jury responded to it at first with uneasy shuffling, then with biting lips, and finally with loud and uncontrolled bursts of isughter.

Lachand, while flinging about his hands, had intentionally dipped his fingers into the great inkpot in front of him, and as he drew his right hand across his forehead, as if in agony of despair at the certain fate of the accused, he left upon his brow an enormous black mark like a crescent moon.

editor calls it an "extraordinary pastime." The thing couldn't be done in London; Buluwayo must put a stop to it.

One piece of gratifying news is that the Buluwayo Laundry Company "went through swimmingly, being largely over-subscribed." Buluwayo will now have the oppertunity of getting decently clean shirts. This is, we repeat, gratifying. Dress clothes would look strange without the complement of starched shirts. Then one finds innumerable other instances of the progress of Buluwayo. Some one has become bankrupt there, or gone into ilquidation, and a shopkceper is already holding a clearance sale, at which enormous bargains are to be had. The Wesleyans have built a new church in Ninth-ave., and had a conversatione to celebrate the event. Suburban recorts, too, are springing into existence, a certain gentleman having taken the Weish Harp Hotel, at the Umgusa River, six miles out, with the intention of making it a popular place for shooting matches (pigeons, not lons), cricket, tennis and other essentially British sports.

not lons), cricket, tennis and other essentially British sports.

English farmers will turn green with envy on reading the prices paid for produce in Buluwayo. Butter realizes from is, to 13s, 6d, per pound. Egga are to be had for modest little suns varying from 5s, 6d, to 6s, each. Do not the hens lay in Matabeleland? And if they do not, whence come the fowls? Cabbages, too, are at a premium, being worth from 2s, to 4s, 6d, each. Probably the people of Buluwayo dispense with butter, eggs and cabbages as supertious luxuries, unless they are all becoming wealthy.

And now, like a bolt from the blue, we read of Buluwayo being in danger itself from the men who once owned the land—an unpleasant reminder that savages cannot be subjugated and civilized in a day.

THE GYPSY TAINT.

Father is a townsman, mother from the far Green southern uplands, where wealthy pastures My kith and my kindred are prosperous and sleek, Who feed well and work well and thrive all the week.

But somewhere and sometime, many a year ago. There was a gypsy woman, that right well I know A wild, dark woman from the moor and wold, Who bare me an ancestor in days of old.

They hushed up her memory, hid her name away, Thought they had done with her for ever and a day,—
Yet hath she left a heritage that none else shall win; Whereunto my wandering feet have entered in.

For surely when the dead leaves scutter down the With a rush and a rustle, like little flying feet,— When the sou'west wakens, and with scared looks askance The townsfolk hasten from the storm's advance.

My whole soul sickens with a fierce desire-stress of sudden longing sets my blood on fire; For the wind on the hill-top in a lonely place, And the cold, soft raindrops blowing on my face;

For the steep-hung hedges of the winding road, And the forest pathway by the stream o'erflowed; For the storm-swept heather where the blackcock whirs, And the salt wind whistles throught the stunted firs;

For the brown wood-water, and the brown field's smell, And the wife sea marshes where the curlew's dwell; For the moorland black against the last red light, And the sunk reef's breakers brawling to the night.

Hide within your houses with your glaring gas!
Mine shall be the peat-smoke in the beech-roofed grass; Count your sordid silver, tell your grimy gain,— Mine shall be the treasures of the wind and rain!

A LAND-WIND.

By Sophie Jewett.

y Sophie Jewett.

The lichen rustles against my cheek,
But the heart of the rock is still;
With chattering voice the cedar speak,
Crouched gray on the barren hill.
A land-wind snaris on the cliff's sheer edge,
Below, the smitten sea
Comes fawning over a sunken ledge,
And covers whimperingly.
In the sultry wood lies a restless hush,
Not a twitter falls from the sky;
Hidden are swallow, sparrow and thrush,
And the sea-birds only cry.

THE OLD BARN. By Madison Cawein. Low, swallow-swept and gray, Between the orchard and the spring. All its wide windows overflowing hay, And crannied doors a-swing. The old barn stands to-day.

Deep in its hay the Leghorn hides
A round, white nest; and, humming soft
On roof and rafter, or its log-rude sides,
Black in the sun-shot loft,
The building hornet gildes.

Along its corn-crib, cautiously
As thieving fingers, skulks the rat;
Or, in warped stalls of fragrant timothy,
Gnaws at some locsened slat,
Or passes shadowy.

A dream of drouth made audible
Before its door, hot, smooth, and shrill
All day the locust sings. . . . What other spell
Shall hold it, lazier still,
Than the long day's, now tell?—

Dusk and the cricket and the strain
Of tree-toad and of frog; and stars
That burn above the rich West's ribbéd stain;
And dropping pasture bars,
And cow-bells up the lane.

Night and the moon and katydid, And leaf-list of the wind-touched boughs; And many shadows that the fire-fifes thrid; And sweet breath of the cows; And the lone owl here hid.

BE YE IN LOVE WITH APRIL-TIDE. By Clinton Scollard.

y Clinton Scollard.

Be ye in love with April-tide?

I' faith, in love am I!

For now 'tis sun, and now 'tis shower,
And now 'tis frost, and now 'tis flower,
And now 'tis Laura laughing-eyed,
And now 'tis Laura laughing-eyed,
And now 'tis Laura and tis flower,
And now 'tis Laura and tis flower,
Ye doubtful days, O slower glide!

Still smile and frown, O sky!
Some beauty unforseen I trace
In every change of Laura's face;
Be ye in love with April-tide?

I' faith, in love am I!

MAN TO WOMAN. By Alice Brown.

By Alice Brown.

Thou art not mine nor shalt be! This I know. While the prise glimmers in my happy hold; For though Love live till Memory hath grown old, And lift his torch to light the way we go—
Though, equal-spanned, our thoughts together flow Like wedded rivers winding, fold on fold, Undried in sun nor stayed by winter cold, Thou art not mine, howe'er we vow it so. Thy soul is but the glass wherein I see, With blinded flash of rapt intelligence, Riven ideals in new-born beauty laid On the bright bosom of eternity; And learn, with prescience far outstripping sense, The image mine, the mirror His Who made.

IMPROVED HOUSING PLANS

ARCHITECTS AT WORK ON DRAWINGS FOR A BUILDING TO COVER A BLOCK.

Just now in the city of New-York a number of are chitects are busying hand and brain with a problem of far-reaching importance. While these men of trained ability are thus working, some hundreds of thinking men and women are waiting anxiously and eagerly for the result, for upon that hinges the answer to the question of how the "lower million" of the future shall live. To those students of modera city life who have familiarized themselves with the cramped wretchedness, the squalor and the evil that abound in the tenement jungles of this great city, this question comes with monstrous emphasis, and seems to demand an answer, and that spee When a plain, nard-handed member of the co meeting and speak with rugged eloquence and truth of the "sporadic philanthropy" of the hour, hu-manitarians are bound to listen and to think.

One result of their thinking is embodied in the problem the architects now have before them. This problem is embraced in the conditions governing a competition for "plans of a model apartment-house." The competition is the outcome of the movement for the betterment of the homes of the less prosperous class by the Association for the Improvement of the Condition of the Poor.

EXAMPLES ABROAD.

A good many people will remember the conference on improved housing which was held in New-York City last March. That conference was addressed by Professor E. R. L. Gould, who had just returned from a tour of European cities extending over a period of more than two years. Professor Gould de voted a large part of his time to a close study of efforts to amelicrate tenement-house evils, and he found an especially fruitful field in London, where speculation has given place to practical knowledge that improved housing philanthropy gives a return, first in moral elevation, and, second, in a financial way. In other words, it is the kind of philanthropy that is self-sustaining and therefore lasting. cleanly and healthful home for his family. He has to pay no more than he paid formerly for discomfort and misery, from which there was no way of escape. He is independent, for he appreciates that his rental is profitable to the investors. These facts Professor Gould A good many prominent men and women took notes to sid their thinking, and soon afterward many of them joined in declaring: "It is time now for us to do something practical and lasting, to make a beginning that shall serve as an ex ample for people in the other large cities of the country to follow." Thereupon the Improved Hous-ing Council formulated its conditions for the competition in which many leading architects are en

To comply with the terms of the competition the various plans must be in the hands of the Housing Council on or before May 11. This date was fixed upon for the reason that the council hope to be able to have ground secured by that time on which to erect the first structure, and work will be begun at once. Where is the site of this new building? you ask. Ah! that is a question a good many persons interested in reality would like to know. The Tribune reporter asked the same question of Professor County in the course of a long conversation on the subject and he laughingly assented to the proposition that i will not be found on Murray Hill or fronting of Central Park.

A WHOLE CITY BLOCK TO BE BUILT ON Wherever the site may be chosen, it will be one to tax the ingenuity and skill of the competing architects to the utmost, for the intention is to secure a city block if possible, and to cover it with the new building. In the conditions governing the comnew building. In the conditions governing the com-petition designs are asked for "an entire city block," measuring 200x400 feet, or thirty-two city lots. The plot to be chosen is to be bounded by the avenues on the short sides and by the cross streets on the long sides. The object of the competition is stated to be "to obtain a satisfactory type of plan adapted to the onditions which prevail in New-York." The first notable thing observed in a study

conditions as prepared is the disappearance of the objectionable word "tenement" from the Housing Council's dictionary. The term of designation is "model apartment-houses." This is a move in the right direction. The plans must be in accord certainly with the New-York Building law. Not more than o per cent of the total area of the land is to be cocupied, the rest being left vacant for light and air. Not more than 15 per cent of the space above the ground floor can be figured upon for walls, partitions, corridors, stairways and other parts used in common. The clear rentable space on every floor above the ground floor must be equal at least to 55 per cent of the total area of the land. No courts in-closed on all sides can be figured to contain less than 900 square feet, and they must be as nearly square as possible. There must be no wells or light shafts, and all windows must open directly upon the outer air. All staircases and corridors must be lighted by windows opening in this way, and all ap-

SAFEGUARDS AGAINST FIRE.

The compartments must be separated by unpierced fire walls extending from ground to rocf. Each compartment must have its own fireproof staircase inclosed with brick walls, with a separate entrance from the street. There must be a hand-lift from the basement for each compartment, and each suite of apartments must have its own water-closet opening directly upon the outer air. Every room of a cutter apartments must have its own water-closet opening directly upon the outer air. Every room of a suite must be private. Every living-room is to contain not less than 144 square feet, and every bedroom must contain at least seventy square feet of floor space. The plans call for a building on these conditions six stories in height, the ground floors on ditions six stories in height, the ground hoors of the avenues arranged for stores having ceilings eleven feet high in the clear. Ceilings of apartments are to be eight feet six inches high in the clear. Each suite of rooms must be provided with a sink and a place for a range. The apartments must be in

suites of two, three and four rooms. Such is the summary of conditions aside from par-

Such is the summary of conditions aside from particular instruction as to the manner in which drawings are to be furnished. Even the layman can glean more than a superficial notion of the problem which the council has set for the architects to solve. The interest that many of them have shown is admirable. It is worthy of note, too, that no prises will be given. The successful architect may be chosen to act officially for the Committee on Model Apartment-Houses, but even in this there is no binding promise. The committee comprises Joseph W. Auerbach, Arthur W. Milbury, Samuel D. Babcock, Charles D. Barney, August Belmont, H. H. Cammann, W. Bayard Cutting, Miss Edith Kendall, Edward Marshall, James B. Reynolds, Miss C. Phelps Stokes and George W. Young.
While the members of the Housing Council feel that this venture on so large a scale is experimental, yet it is so only in the sense of magnitude, for it is no longer necessary to go to London for a practical demonstration of the feasibility of it. One house is owned by the council. It was a tenement, purchased last year for \$15,000. A number of neople combined in the purchase. The price was divided into two parts, \$5,000 on first mortgage at \$4 per cent, and a second mortgage of \$5,000 at 5 per cent. About one hundred and fifty dollars was expended in repairs and putting the place in order. A significant item was the removal of five wagonloads of refuse from the cellar. Before the council secured this house, at No. 335 East Twenty-second-st., it was almost deserted by tenants. Once in order, the rooms were speedily taken. The total rental derived from it now is \$132 a month. The running expenses are \$50 a month, leaving a clear profit on the investment of \$43 a month. Now the point of the whole movement appears in this, that this profit is not transferred to the pocket of the landlord. A tis held sacred for use in bettering the building. A part of the expense is month, leaving a clear profit on the love the dea of the Housing Council is to apply nothing to a divid

FOR THE GENERAL GOOD.

"We are not striving," said Professor Gould, "for an exclusive right in the matter. We are simply trying to open a way in which we indulge the hope

"We are not striving," said Professor Gould, "for an exclusive right in the matter. We are simply trying to open a way in which we induige the hope that others may walk. The plans that we hope finally to secure will be open for the inspection and use of any one who may apply. This proposed building we trust will be merely a type to guide others in the way, and we earnestly desire that the movement may spread throughout New-York City and other large cities of the country as well, are willing to give the fruit of our experience for the general good."

The council likewise has a scheme on hand for the building of model homes on ground purchased in the suburbs, which workingmen can buy with the money they would ordinarly have to pay out in rent. For this, too, there is a special committee, called the Committee on Separate Buildings, and comprising Feltx Adler, Francis V. Greene, P. F. Mosweny, Henry Lewis Morris, Dr. Albert Shaw, Frederick A. Snow and William D'H. Washington.

The officers of the Housing Council are: Richard Watson Gilder, chairman; W. Bayard Cutting, vice-chairman; Charles Stewart Smith, treasurer, and William H. Tolman, secretary; Executive Committee, Samuel D. Babcock, chairman; R. Fulton Cutting, S. Nicholson Kane, Isaac N. Seligman and General Charles Whittler. The council hopes to have two committees added to the working list shortly, one to be known as the Renovated House Committee, whose purpose shall be to see to the general cleanliness of existing tenement-houses, and the other, which has not yet been named, which shall have for its object the carrying out of a design for the erection of a residential club for use by the hundreds of young men who are living in hall bedroom and the like over the city. These rooms are too small for comfort, and the occupant is driven to seek company and recreation on the streets and in neighborhood barrooms. The council think the hall bedroom young man is worth attention. His name to legion.